

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 EUR-12 EA-10 /147 W
-----128655 261924Z /53

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0171
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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USMTN

ACTION STR

STR PASS CODEL

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, EG
SUBJECT: US/EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 4153

1. SUMMARY: US AND EGYPTIAN DEL REVIEWED THE STATUS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE REQUESTS IN THE MTN ON MAY 25. HAMZA INDICATED THE PRIORITY ITEMS AMONG TARIFF S&D REQUESTS SUBMITTED MARCH 15. HE ALSO CLARIFIED EGYPT'S INTENTION WITH RESPECT TO IMPORT DUTIES BTN 02.02 AND CUSTOM FEES AND FORMALITIES. END, SUMMARY.

2. MTN DEL (GRAEF) MET WITH EGYPTIAN DEL (HAMZA) TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF OUR RESPECTIVE REQUESTS. MEETING, AS PAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETINGS, BEGAN WITH A DISCUSSION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF LONG STAPLE COTTON TSUS 300.15 TO EGYPT. IN REVIEWING OTHER EGYPTIAN REQUESTS MTN DEL OBSERVED THAT THE MARCH 15 S&D REQUEST CONTAINED MANY PRODUCTS FOR WHICH EGYPT WAS NOT A SUBSTANTIAL SUPPLIER, AND REQUESTED EGYPT TO IDENTIFY ITS PRIORITIES. HAMZA AGREED TO AN APPROACH WHICH WOULD STRESS PRODUCTS FOR WHICH EGYPT WAS A SIGNIFICANT SUPPLIER AND

THE FOLLOWING PRIORITY ITEMS WERE IDENTIFIED: TSUS 320.40-80, 323.80, 364.20, 380.0040, 380.0055, 380.3909, 452.80.

HAMZA ALSO SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF US RESPONSE TO HIS REQUESTS ON TSUS 140.30, 140.40 AND 190.93. MTN DEL INDICATED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OFFER ON TSUS 140.40 BUT INDICATED THAT PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER GREECE HAD MADE NO REQUEST ON 190.93. (MTN DEL HAS NO KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN ADDRESSED, ADVISE IF THIS IS A CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF STATUS OF THIS ITEM).

3. HAMZA CLARIFIED GOE RESPONSES TO US REQUEST. (SEE REF-TEL) HE NOTED THAT TARIFF ON BTN 02.02 WAS TEMPORARILY DUTY FREE BUT EXPLAINED THAT EGYPT WAS EXPLORING CEILING BINDING AT A RATE BETWEEN 15 AND FREE FOR THIS ITEM. WITH RESPECT TO THE US REQUEST INVOLVING STATE TRADING OF BTN 2304 HAMZA CAUTIONED THAT PURCHASES BY AN EGYPTIAN AGENCY WORKED IN OUR FAVOR BUT UNDERTOOK TO EXPLAIN HOW THIS PURCHASE WORKED AT A FUTURE MEETING. WITH REGARD TO US REQUEST CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF THE US/ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CERTIFICATION, HAMZA EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS NOT REQUIRED. DURING THE ENSUING DISCUSSION OF THIS REQUEST HAMZA INDICATED THAT THE CERTIFICATION OF SOME COMPETENT US AUTHORITY WAS NECESSARY. HAMZA GAVE LITTLE HOPE THAT THE CONSULAR FEES AND FORMALITIES WOULD BE ELIMINATED. WITH RESPECT TO THE EX-OUTS THE US IS SEEKING ON VEGETABLE PROTEIN CONCENTRATES AND ISOLATES HAMZA INDICATED THIS WAS POSSIBLE.

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4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT EGYPT IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY WITH THE US IN THE MTN BUT WILL WITHHOLD ITS COMMITMENT TO CONCESSIONS UNTIL US MAKES A DECISION ON A LONG STAPLE COTTON. MTN DEL RECOGNIZES THAT EGYPT IS NOT THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF THIS PRODUCT IN OUR MARKET IN 1976 AND THAT US OFFER MAY BE DEPENDENT ON THE RESPONSES TO OTHER US REQUEST FOR IMPORTED ACCESS COTTON IN OTHER LDC'S (I.E. INDIA, PHILIPPINES) BUT WISHES TO STRESS AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF AN OFFER ON LONG STAPLE COTTON WHICH WILL SERVE TO SOBER THE ACTIVIST ROLE THAT HAMZA HAS ASSUMED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. END COMMENT.

5. DRAFTED BY GRAEF. MCDONALD

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